

National Heritage Area. Sixty-eight people attended the meetings and every person who commented spoke favorably. As my colleagues can see, Mr. Speaker, this endeavor was founded with true grassroots support.

Today, Pennsylvania is no longer a major contributor in U.S. oil production; however, hundreds of active wells still dot the landscape. Oil Creek and its tributaries now run clear. Hillsides that once were oil soaked and clear-cut now exist as mature forests. All of the major oil companies have their roots here, including Sunoco, Standard Oil, Pennzoil, Quaker State, and Texaco. Oil fueled the industrial revolution and modernized America's transportation system. It is vital that we preserve and enhance the area that is called "the valley that changed the world," the birthplace of commercial petroleum.

Through the establishment of the Oil Region National Heritage Area, we are allowing this great story to be told through maintenance of exhibits, restoration of buildings, and the development of educational and recreational opportunities. I would like to thank the cosponsors of H.R. 695, including my good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), a neighbor. In fact, the majority of the Pennsylvania delegation supports the creation of the Oil Region National Heritage Area, and I would like to thank them as well. This bill is supported by the majority and minority party of the Committee on Resources as well as the administration. It is indeed now time to recognize the national significance of this great region by designating the Oil Region as a National Heritage Area. I hope my colleagues will want to recognize the important contribution that oil has made to the world as we know it by voting to pass H.R. 695, the Oil Region National Heritage Area. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 695, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would establish a new national heritage area in Pennsylvania. The purpose of the new designation would be to commemorate the first successful efforts to drill for oil in the mid-19th century and to preserve historical and cultural resources of the time. The area included in this new designation is already home to six national historic districts and 17 sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Similar legislation in the previous Congress raised some concern because, at the time, no study of the area to be included in this new designation had been conducted. In addition, the administration raised several technical issues regarding the bill. However, since that time, a study has been com-

pleted and the area was found to be appropriate for this type of designation. Further, the sponsor of the bill has made the changes suggested by the administration and, with those changes, we join the administration in supporting H.R. 695.

□ 1415

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 695, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ACT OF 2001

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1628) to amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de los Tejas as a National Historic Trail.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1628

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) El Camino Real de los Tejas (the Royal Road to the Tejas), served as the primary route between the Spanish viceregal capital of Mexico City and the Spanish provincial capital of Tejas at Los Adaes (1721–1773) and San Antonio (1773–1821);

(2) the seventeenth, eighteenth, and early nineteenth century rivalries among the European colonial powers of Spain, France, and England and after their independence, Mexico and the United States, for dominion over lands fronting the Gulf of Mexico, were played out along the evolving travel routes in this immense area;

(3) the future of several American Indian nations, whose prehistoric trails were later used by the Spaniards for exploration and colonization, was tied to these larger forces and events and the nations were fully involved in and affected by the complex cultural interactions that ensued;

(4) the Old San Antonio Road was a series of routes established in the early 19th century sharing the same corridor and some routes of El Camino Real, and carried American immigrants from the east, contributing to the formation of the Republic of Texas, and its annexation to the United States;

(5) the exploration, conquest, colonization, settlement, migration, military occupation, religious conversion, and cultural exchange that occurred in a large area of the borderland was facilitated by El Camino Real de los Tejas as it carried Spanish and Mexican in-

fluences northeastward, and by its successor, the Old San Antonio Road, which carried American influence westward, during a historic period which extended from 1689 to 1850; and

(6) the portions of El Camino Real de los Tejas in what is now the United States extended from the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass and Laredo, Texas and involved routes that changed through time, that total almost 2,600 miles in combined length, generally coursing northeasterly through San Antonio, Bastrop, Nacogdoches, and San Augustine in Texas to Natchitoches, Louisiana, a general corridor distance of 550 miles.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

Section 5(a) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended as follows:

(1) By designating the paragraph relating to the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail as paragraph (21).

(2) By adding at the end the following:

“(23) EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—El Camino Real de los Tejas (The Royal Road to the Tejas) National Historic Trail, a combination of routes totaling 2,580 miles in length from the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass and Laredo, Texas to Natchitoches, Louisiana, and including the Old San Antonio Road, as generally depicted on the maps entitled 'El Camino Real de los Tejas', contained in the report prepared pursuant to subsection (b) entitled 'National Historic Trail Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment: El Camino Real de los Tejas, Texas-Louisiana', dated July 1998. A map generally depicting the trail shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The trail shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior.

“(B) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of the Interior may coordinate with United States and Mexican public and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Government of Mexico and its political subdivisions, for the purpose of exchanging trail information and research, fostering trail preservation and educational programs, providing technical assistance, and working to establish an international historic trail with complementary preservation and education programs in each nation.”.

SEC. 4. PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION.

Designation of El Camino Real de los Tejas under this Act does not itself confer any additional authority to apply other existing Federal laws and regulations on non-Federal lands along the trail. Laws or regulations requiring public entities and agencies to take into consideration a national historic trail shall continue to apply notwithstanding the foregoing. On non-Federal lands, the national historic trail shall be established only when landowners voluntarily request certification of their sites and segments of the trail consistent with section 3(a)(3) of the National Trails System Act. Notwithstanding section 7(g) of such Act, the United States is authorized to acquire privately-owned real property or an interest in such property for purposes of the trail only with the willing consent of the owner of such property and shall have no authority to condemn or otherwise appropriate privately-owned real property or an interest in such property for the purposes of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON).

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1828 would establish the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Trail to the National Trails system. The Camino Real, also known as the royal road, is a combination of historic routes totaling 2,600 miles used by the Spanish to connect them to Spanish Capitals. The history of the trail extends from early American Indian nations to modern exploration and colonization.

Today, the trail extends from the Texas-Mexico border along the Rio Grande River to Natchitoches, Louisiana. These roads were primary transportation routes starting in the 1600s, and thus had significant influences on the culture and political identity of south central Texas and western Louisiana.

In addition to the designation as a National Historic Trail, H.R. 1628 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate an international effort to recognize the significance of this trail, and foster education and research of its history with the country of Mexico.

Finally, H.R. 1628 specifies that the acquisition of privately-owned land or interest in land would occur only with the consent of the owner.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1628 is supported by the majority and the minority, as well as the administration. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1628.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, a study authorized by the 103rd Congress found that the El Camino Real de los Tejas was eligible for designation as a National Historic Trail under criteria established by the National Trails System Act, H.R. 1628, which will officially add this new route to our National Trails System.

The trail would be comprised of several different and overlapping routes totaling more than 2,500 miles. Beginning on the U.S.-Mexican border between the Texas cities of Eagle Pass and Laredo, the trail would run across Texas through cities including San Antonio and Austin, and end in the town of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

These routes were established around 1860 during the Spanish colonial period and remained in use through the early 1880s. During that time, these trails played a significant role in the settlement and economic development of the Texas frontier during the Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo-American periods.

This legislation makes clear that the trail may only be established with the consent of any affected private landowners, and mandates that any land acquisition for trail purposes may be from willing sellers only.

We commend our colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ), and are pleased to support him for his hard work on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1628.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ).

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to ask the House to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1628, the Camino Real de los Tejas Historic Trails Act of 2001. This legislation would designate a series of historic trails dating back to the 1600s as National Historic Trails. These trails, used first by the Native Americans, became the primary travel routes for exploration and then for commercial routes for the Spanish, the Mexicans, the Texans, and the Americans.

Before I go any further, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to express my sincere thanks to the chairman and to the committee for their hard work; and to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), for their hard work in bringing the bill to the floor today.

The Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands has been very supportive. I would like to thank its chairman, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN). I appreciate the bipartisan support that the committee has provided.

The El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trails Act has received tremendous support from local governments and community organizations all across the State of Texas. More than 60 cities, counties, and local organizations from all over the border, from Mexico into Louisiana, have passed formal resolutions endorsing the passage of this legislation.

I owe a special thanks to the Alamo Area Council of Governments for its leadership in working on this with the National Park Service, with me and my office, and with local governments along the trail route for the more than 3 years they have worked on this legislation. Without their hard work, we would not be here today.

The National Park Service completed its feasibility study in July of 1998 pursuant to Public Law 103-145. The study concluded that the proposed trail met all the applicable criteria in the National Trails System Act, Public Law 90-543. In the 105th Congress, the Senate passed similar legislation, the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Act of 1998, Senate bill 2276, but the Congress ended before the House had the opportunity to consider the legislation.

The bill before the House today contains a number of important changes in the version passed by the Senate in the 105th Congress. In an effort to clarify the intent of the legislation and to respond to concerns raised by private

property owners and advocates during the bill's consideration, H.R. 1628 contains specific provisions to ensure protection by private property rights, as our chairman has indicated.

Specifically, the bill states unambiguously that no land or interest in land can be acquired by the Federal Government without the willing consent of the owner; secondly, that the Federal Government has no authority to condemn or appropriate land for the trail; that the trail would not be established on the ground unless a private property owner voluntarily requests to participate; and that the designation of the trail does not confer any additional authority to apply other nontrail Federal laws that might be impactionable.

These provisions reflect my desire to remove any concerns that the National Historic Trail in Texas would negatively impact on private property owners. In fact, the experience of other existing national historic trails suggests just the opposite. Private property owners can and do benefit from participation in the trail program, but only if they so choose.

The trail that will be designated today is truly historic. The Camino Real, or Royal Highway, forged the way for the early development of Texas from the Spanish colony to an independent Republic as a State of the United States and as the first great highway of Texas. This Camino Real opened the door to trade and cultural exchange, which continues to impact our lives today.

The State of Texas recognized the critical importance of these royal highways in 1929 when the State legislature designated portions of the El Camino Real de los Tejas, later known as the Old San Antonio Road, as one of Texas's historic trails.

State Highway 21 marks the trail's pathway in many parts of the State, as do State historical markers. Designation as a National Historic Trail would greatly enhance the resources available for trail preservation and public education of its unique and important history.

The Camino Real de los Tejas, as defined in this legislation collectively, represents a series of roads and trails extending for over 1,000 miles from Mexico City to Los Adeas in what is today Louisiana, beginning with the Indian trails. Remember, this goes back, it is a beautiful history, to 1689 and the explorers as well as missionaries and people who colonized the area.

All told, various portions of this El Camino Real de los Tejas now extends up to 550, and some up to 2,600, miles as they paralleled each other with various roads.

The Camino Real de los Tejas linked the Spanish in Mexico to their new outposts in East Texas in the late 17th and 18th century. The mission San Antonio de Valero, later known as the Alamo, was established along the Camino Real route and later served as a

focal point for military battles for Texas independence. Critical supplies made their way to the American Colonies during the war of independence via the Camino Real de los Tejas trail system.

The El Camino Real de los Tejas road system provided many transportation routes for Mexican and Texan armies during the Texas revolution, and continued to play a major role in the military future of the area.

Recognizing the significance of El Camino Real de los Tejas and its historical importance grounds us for the future and provides us great opportunities for today. The trail's designation will help enhance tourism and economic development for many of the small cities that it goes through, and for the towns and trails that it passes through. The local museums as well as historical sites will give new opportunities for growth.

The San Antonio Missions National Historic Park and the importance of the beautification network of the mission in San Antonio will provide a base for operation of the trail. The number of public roads, State parks, and national forests can also provide public access to this important piece of our history.

As we strive to boost international trade and development of our local communities, as well as enhance educational opportunities, we only have to look to the El Camino Real de los Tejas for inspiration.

I can just add once again, I thank the gentleman very much. We always talk about the westward movement. We forget there was a northward movement also, and a southern movement.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1628, the Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Act. I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) for his leadership on this legislation, as well as the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Land, and its ranking member, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

This trail runs through my hometown of Crockett, as well as several other communities in my district, such as Nacogdoches and Augustine. It is a very historic part of our State in East Texas. I am proud to represent the congressional district once represented by Sam Houston.

This historic highway system, which has served Texas for over 150 years, was, beginning in 1689, one of the primary exploration, commerce, and immigration routes through our great State of Texas. The highway, as has been mentioned, extends from Mexico across the Rio Grande all the way up

through East Texas into Louisiana. The trail covers over 2,600 miles in all.

I have received resolutions in favor of this legislation from numerous communities along the trail urging that this highway be designated as a National Historic Trail, so I am proud to join with my colleagues here on the floor today advocating that the House adopt H.R. 1628 to designate the El Camino Real as a National Historic Trail.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to share with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) that we are delighted to support his bill, and urge fellow Members to do likewise.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1628, the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Act of 2001. I want to commend my colleague, Representative CIRO RODRIGUEZ of Texas for introducing this bill.

H.R. 1628, the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Act of 2001, is a good bill because it provides for the protection and conservation of our cultural heritage. The enactment of H.R. 1628 will serve to continue recognizing the cultural heritage and preservation of the Southwest United States. The measure will also go a long way in strengthening the many common ties between the United States and Mexico that are symbolized by and embodied in the Camino Reales of the Southwest.

The El Camino Real de los Tejas has connected the people of Mexico and the United States in transportation and commerce. This bill would help recognize and designate this network of trade routes, post routes, cattle trails and military highways used by Native Americans, Spanish, French and English explorers. Moreover, this bill illustrates the historical importance of these corridors and will contribute to the enhancement of tourism and economic development throughout the region.

Designating El Camino Real de los Tejas as a National Historic Trail will, undoubtedly reconnect our citizens even more closely to the ties of historical and cultural heritage with Mexico and Spain. Revitalizing the Camino Real de los Tejas will also allow the larger family of Americans to participate in and benefit from that effort. It will lead to a more rounded, more holistic view of the history of our continent, one that will enable us to continue to discover and explore the commonalities that bond the U.S. with Mexico and Spain.

Last year, Representative SYLVESTRE REYES and I sponsored similar legislation that was signed by President Clinton. That measure designated El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, which ran from El Paso, Texas to San Juan Pueblo in New Mexico as a National Historic Trail.

H.R. 1628 is equally important to the preservation of our cultural resources. Again, I commend Mr. RODRIGUEZ for introducing this legislation and urge my colleagues to support it.

I hope that together through efforts like this, we can continue to expand cultural heritage preservation and tourism initiatives throughout the Southwest. In doing so, we celebrate our rich cultural history while expanding economic opportunities.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1628.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EMIGRANT WILDERNESS PRESERVATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 434) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into a cooperative agreement to provide for retention, maintenance, and operation, at private expense, of the 18 concrete dams and weirs located within the boundaries of the Emigrant Wilderness in the Stanislaus National Forest, California, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 434

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Emigrant Wilderness Preservation Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN WATER IMPOUNDMENT STRUCTURES IN THE EMIGRANT WILDERNESS, STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA.

(a) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall enter into a cooperative agreement with a non-Federal entity described in subsection (c), under which the entity will retain, maintain, and operate at private expense the water impoundment structures specified in subsection (b) that are located within the boundaries of the Emigrant Wilderness in the Stanislaus National Forest, California, as designated by section 2(b) of Public Law 93-632 (88 Stat. 2154; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note).

(b) COVERED WATER IMPOUNDMENT STRUCTURES.—The cooperative agreement required by subsection (a) shall cover the water impoundment structures located at the following:

- (1) Cow Meadow Lake.
- (2) Y-Meadow Lake.
- (3) Huckleberry Lake.
- (4) Long Lake.
- (5) Lower Buck Lake.
- (6) Leighton Lake.
- (7) High Emigrant Lake.
- (8) Emigrant Meadow Lake.
- (9) Middle Emigrant Lake.
- (10) Emigrant Lake.
- (11) Snow Lake.
- (12) Bigelow Lake.

(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The following non-Federal entities are eligible to enter into the cooperative agreement under subsection (a):

(1) A non-profit organization as defined in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)).

(2) The State of California or a political subdivision of the State.

(3) A private individual, organization, corporation, or other legal entity.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

(1) MAP.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall prepare a map identifying the location, size,